

Serial No.: 10/702,362

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REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 16, 2004, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

Claim 32 was previously indicated as allowed. Claims 16 and 18 were objected to but were indicated to be allowable if written in independent form.

Claim 6 has been written as an independent claim. It includes the limitations of claim 3 and the limitation noted in the Examiner's Statement of Allowable Subject Matter.

Claims 8 and 18 were also objected to. These claims have been amended to include the limitations of claim 3 from which these claims depended.

Claim 32 has been slightly amended to remove a reference to "the confidence." That term lacked antecedent basis in the claim and is being removed. Applicants contend that the other limitations of the claim, such as indicating an object when they have an effective atomic number in a predetermined range and a predetermined proximity to another object that has an effective atomic number indicative of metal, is not shown or suggested in the prior art.

Therefore, claim 32 should be allowed. Also, "objects" has been changed to "object" in the singular to be consistent with the first line of subparagraph E. Other small changes are made for grammatical correctness consistent with the singular form of the word.

Applicants have also corrected the second paragraph of page 11 to fix a typographical error noted by the Examiner. This change makes the specification consistent with the drawings as filed and does not add new matter.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted
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